DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Sunday, January 4, 2026

KARACHI

Sunset	**05:56** pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	**07:16** am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	**13°C**
Maximum	**26°C**
Humidity	**65%**
Outlook	**Sunny**

Villa rebound as West Ham collapse against Wolves

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Bodies found off Mai Kolachi identified as mother, three children

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: The partially decomposed bodies of four people discovered in a pit on Mai Kolachi Road on Friday night were identified on Saturday as those of a woman and her three children.

Police said the four bodies, which were found at a desolate spot within the jurisdiction of the Docks police station, bore marks of torture and appeared to have been killed with an axe or another sharp-edged object.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that the victims were identified as Anila, 35, her two sons, Husain Ali, 12, and Konain Ali, 10, and daughter Kishwara Zehra, 13.

He said Anila got divorced from Mukhtar Ali and on Dec 30, 2025 she rented a house in Kharadar.

Police Surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said that the victims were killed around four to five days ago. She said the corpses were brought to the Civil Hospital Karachi where medico-legal formalities were completed late on Friday night.

The three children suffered multiple injuries in the head, face and neck, while their mother was bludgeoned to death.

"All relevant samples have been collected for intoxication and sexual violence," said the police surgeon.

FIR lodged

On Saturday, the Docks police registered an FIR under Sections 302 (premediated murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code against unknown persons for brutally killing the woman and her three children.

The case was registered on behalf of the state through police officer Mohammed Azhar.

The complainant narrated the recovery of the bodies and said in the FIR that "the circumstances give rise to suspicions that the victims were killed elsewhere and their bodies were later dumped in a dried manhole".

Meanwhile, DIG Raza said there was no CCTV coverage in the deserted area of the Mai Kolachi.

He observed that the injuries on the head and neck of the victims appeared to have been inflicted with an axe and other sharp-edge weapons/instruments.

He suspected that the gruesome murders might be an outcome of the killing in the name of so-called honour.

AN official notice pasted on a shop on Akbar Road indicates that the outlet in the famous motorcycle market has been sealed by municipal authorities for violating encroachment laws. —Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

Akbar Road bike market, over 300 shops sealed as crackdown on encroachments intensifies

Sealed premises will remain shut until owners give undertaking to comply with SOPs: commissioner

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: In a major crackdown, authorities have sealed over 400 eateries, tea stalls and shops across the city, including the motorcycle market on Akbar Road, due to encroachments.

Official sources told *Dawn* that besides around 100 shops in the Akbar Road market, over 300 establishments were sealed in areas including Mobile Market, Preedy Street, M.A. Jinnah Road, Pakistan Chowk, Lilly Bridge Road, Clifton Block-2 and Nishtar Road.

They said the crackdown on eateries, auto workshops and other shops having their set-up on footpaths and roads was intensified from Friday and as many as 402 such establishments were sealed across the metropolis.

Speaking to Dawn, Karachi Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi said he had issued a clear warning that any shop or eatery violating standard operating procedures (SOPs), despite having already submitted written assurances, would be sealed and its owners could face arrest.

"The sealed premises will stay shut until the owners can prove they are fully compliant," he added.

Deputy Commissioner South Javed Nabi Khoso said that motorcycle market on Akbar Road was sealed after shop owners set up "soft encroachments" by parking bikes for sale on footpaths.

He said administrative teams had issued general warnings to shopkeepers to remove encroachments from in front of their premises. The DC added that owners of the sealed shops would have to submit undertakings in line with SOPs for de-sealing their outlets.

Officials said that during anti-encroachment operations, chairs and tables placed on the roadside and other items were confiscated.

They said of the 402 establishments, 307 eateries and shops were sealed in Saddar and Aram Bagh subdivisions under the supervision of the DC-South during the two-day action.

All DCs have been directed to remove encroachments on footpaths and roads that obstruct traffic and cause inconvenience to citizens, they added.

The operation has been extended to several other sub-divisions, including Civil Lines, Lyari, Saddar, Firozabad, Jamshed Quarters, Liaquatabad, Nazimabad, North Nazimabad, Keamari, Model Colony, Shah Faisal Colony, Nasir Jump, Korangi and Landhi.

Earlier in November, the commissioner had announced a "zero-tolerance" policy against placing chairs and tables on walkways and pavements along roads measuring 100 feet or more, strictly prohibiting restaurants and eateries from encroaching on these areas.

Under the new SOPs, no outdoor placement of chairs and tables, or any obstruction on footpaths, service lanes or road shoulders along major arteries (100 feet or more), is permitted.

Heavy vehicles on city roads to be restricted to dedicated lane

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: To keep slow-moving freight vehicles from mingling with faster passenger traffic, the city commissioner on Monday announced that heavy-transport vehicles (HTVs) would be restricted to a dedicated lane with a maximum speed limit of 30 km/h.

A meeting, chaired by Commissioner Hasan Naqvi, deliberated on various issues, including the parking problem of goods transporters, the issuance of HTV licences and registration for insurance.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Karachi police chief Azad Khan, Transport Secretary Asad Zaman and DIG Traffic Peer Mohammad Shah, and representatives of the Pakistan Goods Transport Alliance, United Goods Transport Alliance and Karachi Goods Carrier Association.

After the meeting, the commissioner told *Dawn* that the lane would be marked with clear "HTV" signage and painted lines, and heavy vehicles would be permitted to travel only within this lane once the markings were completed.

He said that the meeting focused on the persistent parking problems faced by goods transporters, the cumbersome process of issuing HTV licences, and the need for improved registration and insurance mechanisms for commercial vehicles.

Mr Naqvi warned that any heavy vehicle found deviating from the designated lane or exceeding the 30 km/h speed limit would face strict action.

The officials said that a detailed review of the challenges confronting Karachi's freight sector was conducted as rapid urban expansion had left limited space for trucks to load, unload or park.

They said that the limited parking space had forced many vehicles to occupy side streets and informal lots, which in turn creates bottlenecks, hampers traffic flow and raises safety concerns.

The officials said that it was decided that coordinated efforts would be made to resolve the parking problem of goods transporters, and that a proposed terminal for their vehicles — intended to provide secure parking, maintenance bays and customs clearance points — would be examined further.

The meeting decided that a dedicated HTV lane would be allocated for heavy vehicles on the corridor from Mai Kolachi to Qayyumabad Bridge.

MQM-P announces 'Save Karachi Campaign'

Sattar says Pakistan's survival tied to revival of the metropolis; reiterates party has no association with Muttahida founder Altaf Hussain

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Saturday announced the formal launch of the "Karachi Bachao Mohim" [Save Karachi Campaign], warning that Pakistan's survival and economic stability are directly linked to the revival of the metropolis, which it described as the country's economic "backbone" but the "most neglected" city.

Addressing a press conference at the party's Bahadurabad headquarters, senior party leader Dr Farooq Sattar along with Haider Abbass Rizvi and others said that despite decades of "systematic injustice and neglect," Karachi continues to contribute more than "65 per cent" of federal revenue, "95pc" of Sindh's provincial revenue and nearly "50pc" of national exports.

"If Pakistan has to be saved, Karachi must be saved first, and the city must be restored to its rightful and functional role," he asserted.

He strongly criticised the worsening living conditions in the metropolis, stating that Karachi's youth are being pushed into despair due to administrative failures.

"Dumpers, broken roads and open sewerage lines are claiming innocent lives, while flawed Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) and board examination results are destroying students' futures by making admissions nearly impossible," he said

He condemned the quota system, calling it against meritocracy and a major obstacle to national progress.

Dr Sattar said the MQM-P would engage with traders, teachers, lawyers and other stakeholders to build consensus, followed by a grand seminar to formulate a collective roadmap to address Karachi's crises, insisting: "This is not a political slogan; it is a survival movement for the country's largest city."

While outlining the party's ideological stance, he reaffirmed that MQM-P's decision of August 23, 2016, remains its guiding principle.

"Now, MQM operates only from Pakistan. We have no association with our founder, Altaf Hussain. Our loyalty is solely with the Constitution, the state and the armed forces of Pakistan," he said.

Referring to national security and recent developments, Dr Sattar said May 10, 2025, marked a historic milestone when Pakistan emerged successful in what he termed a "battle of truth" against its enemies.

He credited Field Marshal Asim Munir, the government and the people of Pakistan for the achievement, and said the next national goal should be the "battle for the economy," aimed at making Pakistan economically self-reliant through accelerated development.

Speaking on the occasion, senior leader Haider Abbas Rizvi alleged that the Karachi Strategic Development Plan 2020 was deliberately ignored, resulting in the misappropriation of nearly Rs8 trillion.

He claimed that Karachi was deprived of Rs3.4 trillion so far, which was its legitimate share, citing a former bureaucrat's assessment.

He reiterated the party's commitment to restoring Karachi's economic stability and lost vibrancy, pledging to continue its struggle until the city's "lights are brought back."

Man 'dies by suicide' in Clifton guest house

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A man was found shot dead inside a Clifton guest house on Saturday. However, police claimed the man took his own life.

They added that the body of Zulfiqar Ali, 55, was recovered from the guest house located near Umer Sharif Park in Block 2.

Boat Basin SHO Rashid Ali told *Dawn* that the man used his licensed pistol to end his life.

He said he originally hailed from Mirpurkhas and came here on Friday. He said that the motive could not be ascertained till late in the night.

The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

Century-old Hassan Ali Hothi Market inaugurated after renovations

Mayor Wahab terms building a symbol of Karachi's heritage; says it has reopened after removal of encroachments and structural alterations

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: City Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Saturday inaugurated the historic Hassan Ali Hothi Market, which has undergone extensive renovation, marking the completion of 100 years of the iconic marketplace in the old city area.

The inauguration was held after extensive renovation and conservation work aimed at reviving the market's original architectural character while also providing modern facilities for traders.

Speaking at the ceremony, the mayor said that the Hassan Ali Hothi Market in Ranchore Line is not merely a commercial hub, but a symbol of Karachi's historic identity and colonial-era urban heritage.

"Established a century ago, this market reflects the cultural and historical fabric of Karachi. Over time, it was neglected, encroachments took over, and its original beauty faded. The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) took it upon itself to protect and restore this valuable heritage," he said.

Barrister Wahab explained that the renovation was carried out carefully to preserve the market's original design and character.

Encroachments and raised platforms were removed, while modern facilities were introduced to ensure a better and more organised environment for the trading community.

He emphasised that the restoration of heritage sites is an essential part of sustainable urban development.

"Reviving historic markets not only enhances the city's beauty but also boosts economic activity. The restoration of Hassan Ali Hothi Market reflects this vision," he added.

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Sindh Minister for Culture Zulfiqar Shah, elected representatives, members of the trader community, members of the Hothi family, and senior KMC officials.

The mayor highlighted that Karachi is a multicultural city where people of all backgrounds, ethnicities and religions coexist, and that historic markets like Hassan Ali Hothi Market represent this harmony.

He also shared updates on other heritage projects, stating that Denso Hall and Frere Hall have already been restored, work on Empress Market is ongoing, the KMC Building is under restoration, work on Lea Market has begun, and the restoration of Machi Miani Market will start soon.

Barrister Wahab also shared key development data, stating that Rs46 billion will be spent on Karachi this year.

He said work is underway on major water projects, including K-IV, Hub Canal and other schemes.

He added that new buses are being introduced in the city and that visible development progress will be seen over the next 18 months.

The culture minister, in his address, thanked the mayor for making the restoration of Hassan Ali Hothi Market possible in collaboration with the Heritage Department.

He said projects like Empress Market and Frere Hall demonstrate the Sindh government's commitment to preserving cultural heritage.

A VIEW of the Hothi Market in Ranchore Line.—Dawn